

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1906.

Political Turmoil.

The Town Council has organized, sub-committees have been named and appointments made, and under ordinary circumstances a period of tranquillity should ensue in local political circles. But there must be something extraordinary about the circumstances surrounding local politics, for instead of tranquillity there is persistent war talk. Grievances appear to be numerous and the aggrieved inconsolable. Determined declarations are heard on every hand about a squaring of accounts next fall. Much of this vengeful talk is undoubtedly of the quality known as hot air, and if the administration that came into power January 1, 1906, makes a satisfactory showing at the close of the year it will meet with popular approval and the spirit of discontent will narrow down to a small fraction, composed of people with personal grievances, and that class of people can never be eliminated from politics.

The turmoil now extant in local politics appears to be largely among the radical annexation element. Some of those among the citizens of the town who were pronounced in their views in favor of annexation and whose heads were battered with anti-annexation cudgels are doubtless extracting a little quiet amusement out of the present situation in local affairs. There is a possibility of a love feast soon between conservative annexationists and anti-annexationists, the policy of making a citizen practically ineligible for public office simply because he has at some time or another declared himself in favor of annexation.

Firemen's Relief Fund.

Chief Engineer James Y. Stoll has called a meeting of the officers and members of the Fire Department to be held in central firehouse Tuesday evening, January 16th, for discussing ways and means of increasing the funds of the Firemen's Relief Fund. The claims on the relief fund during the past year were in excess of the income of the association to the amount of nearly \$600. Heretofore the interest on the invested funds of the Firemen's Relief Association about met the claims upon the fund, but this year a drain upon the principle had to be made to meet demands. A proposition under consideration is to hold a three days' bazaar for the benefit of the relief fund.

Mr. Raab's Appointment.

In accordance with a rule laid down by the State Board of Taxation Bloomfield is one of the municipalities in which separate and distinct valuations must be made on land and buildings by the assessors. Wm. E. Raab, the newly appointed member of the Board of Assessors, is a builder by occupation and has had a wide and practical experience in erecting houses, and his knowledge in that line ought to serve him in good stead in his work in the Board of Assessors.

Prohibition Rally.

A series of meetings to discuss the prohibition of the liquor traffic are being held in the W. C. T. U. Hall, E. Orange, on the first Thursday of each month. Rev. Dr. G. S. Woodruff spoke last Thursday at an audience that filled the hall on "Prohibition, and Why?" Persons were present from Orange and Bloomfield, as well as East Orange. The meeting was pronounced a success.

Republican Club Officers.

The Second Ward Republican Club elected the following officers Tuesday night: T. E. Hayes, president; Walter Tappan, vice-president; George Hammel, treasurer; John Reiss, secretary; Charles Himmel, Leonard Baskell and Daniel Schlesich, members of Executive Committee.

A special committee was appointed to prepare plans for a club building and report at the February meeting. Emmet Day, Charles Fredericks and J. M. Walker are the committee.

With the advent of the New Year have come the announcements of several new engagements, the latest being that of Miss Caroline MacLaren, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David MacLaren, of 62 Frank street, to Robert L. Johnston of New York—Ottawa (Canada) Citizen.

Legislation Bills.

The limited franchises and equal taxation members of the Legislature from Essex and Hudson counties are uncertain at this time whether to introduce the bills on those subjects which they have prepared, at the opening session of the House on Tuesday. It is not customary to introduce measures on the opening day, but it is known to have been done in cases where it was necessary to enact a law which some exigency demands shall become operative without delay. Such a bill was the one increasing the salary of the Governor from \$5,000 to \$10,000, which was passed at the opening of the session of 1890. It was introduced to have Governor Leon Abbott benefit by the increase, and as he took office on the Tuesday following the organization of the Legislature it was necessary to enact the law the first week of the session.

The order for the organization of the Legislature is for the clerk and secretary to call the chambers to order at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Prayer is then offered and the roll is called. The new members are then sworn in, and after signing the oath they proceed to organize the chamber by electing the presiding officer and the secretary or clerk. As both parties present a candidate for presiding officer, in all the ornate oratory of their best speakers and the successful candidate returns his thanks to a more or less extent, this takes considerable time.

Library Notes.

An uncommonly interesting book, and one of permanent value, is "Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter," by Theodore Roosevelt. Its central idea is the relation of wild animal life to human life. Always a close observer of life out-of-doors, the president has given us in this record of recent hunting trips a large amount of information in a very attractive form. He introduces us to people as well as animals, who have been his friends, and we are continually reminded of his habit of looking for and appreciating what is best in man and beast.

Other books in the library by Mr. Roosevelt are: "American Ideals and Other Essays," "Big Game Hunting in the Rockies," "Gouverneur Morris," "American Statesman," "Thomas H. Benton" (American Statesman), "New York" (Historic Towns), "Naval War of 1812," "Oliver Cromwell," "Rough Riders," "Strenuous Life," "Winning of the West." In 1897 the third book of the Boone and Crockett Club was edited by Mr. Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell.

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Geography replaced history

There are two interesting lives of Roosevelt in the library. "The Man Roosevelt," by E. E. Leupus, and "Theodore Roosevelt, the Citizen," by his ardent admirer, Jacob A. Riis. Both carry him to the year 1901.

There is a new nature book, "Way of Nature," by Burroughs, for older readers, said to be quite different from his former writings, and for little folks "Animal Heroes," by Thompson Seton.

Two other juveniles which call for special mention are Wigwam Stories told by North American Indians, compiled by M. C. Judd, and "Children of the Cold," by Frederick Schwatka.

Public School Information.

County School Superintendent Meredith has issued a pamphlet containing much information concerning the schools of the county. The names are given of the members of the Boards of Education and the teachers in all the municipalities in the county, excepting Newark, Orange and East Orange. The custodians of school money in all the places are named. It is stated that a library of pedagogical books containing 590 volumes has been established in the county for the use of teachers. The county has been divided into eight districts, with a library in each. It is announced that county examinations for teacher's certificates will be held on the first Fridays and Saturdays of October, February and May at the Park School at Nutley. The Board of Examiners consists of Mr. Meredith, Clarence E. Morse, Charles B. Evans and Geo. E. Gerard.

Against Flat Wheels.

General Superintendent Stipman and Charles A. Keeler, Newark inspector of trolley cars, were directed by the Board of Works to institute police court proceedings against the Public Service Corporation whenever in the future cars are found in operation with flat wheels or defective machinery. For two years and four months Keeler has been submitting to the board weekly reports of violations of the city ordinances by the Public Service, but only twice in all that time has any action been taken to enforce the penalty provided. Instead the reports have been sent to the company with the request that the care mentioned as defective be repaired.

Death of William H. Holt.

William H. Holt, a son of the late William and Margaret Holt, and nephew of John E. O'Neil, died in the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, yesterday from pneumonia. Mr. Holt was twenty-eight years old. He was born here. For the past three years he had been in Binghamton, N. Y., and was on his way to Orange to visit his sister, Mrs. William Smith, when taken ill.

Moral Training in Public Schools.

The American public school system, great and beneficial as it is, and with its splendid record of achievement, is not without its detractors. Some people are prejudiced against public school education on account of its democratic principles, but the most serious charge is that the American system of public education has to contend with that of the absence of religious training in its scope of work. Those who object to the public schools on religious grounds put their accusation in a more insidious form by turning to its lack of moral training. The argument for State support of secular schools makes the plea that the public schools cannot turn out good citizens on account of the inability of such schools to teach matters of a purely religious nature.

Dr. William M. Swingle, Superintendent of the Orange Public Schools, in an address before the State Teachers Association at Atlantic City last week spoke on the subject of the moral features of public school work. He said:

"There are those who see a menace in the existing conditions that are found in the educational field, and severe criticism is passed upon a system that does not prove more adequate for the religious and moral development of the children who are trained in our schools.

"The field of moral and civic instruction is quite distinct from religious instruction. How is it possible to divorce morality from religion? In this country formal religious instruction is entirely excluded from the public schools, but is made a part of the course of study in most denominational and parochial schools and in a few private schools. Since a very large percentage of our youth attend the public schools they have absolutely no opportunity for religious instruction, unless provided for by the home or the church. The view that State supported schools must refrain from any direct sectarian influence has been so general that it has led to sweeping provisions against sectarian religious instruction of any kind.

"The home is the great school for character building. What is the tendency in the average American home to-day? There are those who say that the training received in the great majority of homes brings no good to the State. It is in our large cities that the problem is to be solved. What can be expected of the homes where there are no Sundays, no Sunday-school lessons, no Bible, no hope of a better life, nothing to inspire and uplift, nothing to give strength and power for the battle

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